



THE FRIGONS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIGON,
FRIGONE, FREGO, FREGOE,
FREGON, FREGONE FAMILIES

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VOLUME 19 - NUMBER 1

WINTER 2012

Montreal's Utility Poles

1- At the Outset

Pierre Frigon (4)

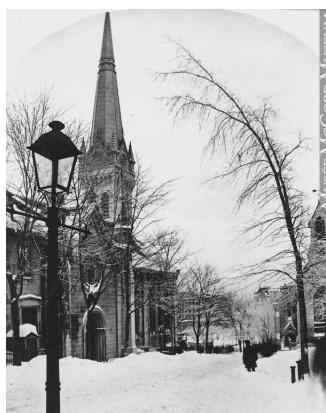


ED. In the next newsletters, we will publish extracts of a text entitled *La Commission des services électriques de la cité de Montréal, 1910-1935* (Electrical Services Commission of the City of Montreal), a manuscript which Pierre is presently preparing for publication. His interest in the subject stems from the fact that Augustin Frigon was president of this commission from 1926 to 1935. At first, Pierre's intention was to limit his research to that period, but soon it expanded in scope and he decided to write the history of the commission from its beginnings to the departure of Augustin Frigon on December 31, 1935. The latter left the Electrical Commission for the *Société canadienne de la radiodistribution* (Canadian Broadcasting) which soon became the *CBC/ Radio-Canada* with Augustin as Assistant Director

General from 1936 to 1942, and as Director General from 1943 to 1951. Happy reading!

In the mid-19th century, "there were no electrical cables to encumber the streets and public places.

The whale oil street-lamps had a certain charm and blended well with the landscape.



Lamp-post on Beaver Hall Hill in winter, Montreal, around 1875. Credit. McCord Museum, Notman Collection

(Continuation on 51)

2012 - Annual Meeting

Manoir des Chutes Montmorency

Tour and Dinner Theatre

August 18, 2012

<http://www.genealogie.org/famille/frigon/>

Further information in spring 2012

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PRINTED PAPER SURFACE

For the due date of your membership/subscription renewal,
please check the expiration date on the above mailing label.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIGON FAMILIES ARE TO

- retrace the families bearing the surnames Frigon, Frigone, Frego, Fregoe, Fregone et Fregon
- recruit members and resource persons
- organise gatherings and annual reunions with a view to creating bonds of friendship
- collect genealogical and historical information from the members and other sources in order to favour the promotion, development and spread of Frigon history, genealogy and other ties between generations
- gather information from the members: marriages, births, deaths, awards, etc
- create a computerized Frigon dictionary based on verified data from all sources
- publish the newsletter *THE FRIGONS*
- publish and make available monographs, biographies, family albums, and the results of historical and genealogical research
- assure the preservation of the family archives

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Individual: \$20/year \$50/3 years \$80/5 years

Benefactor: \$30/year

Lifetime: \$250 (55 years and over)

Corporate: \$250/year (includes an optional free half-page advertisement in *THE FRIGONS* for two years/6 newsletters)

Canada: Canadian dollar

USA and other countries: US dollar

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The texts published in the newsletter are the sole responsibility of the authors.

Dear Members,

The recruitment of new members is the mandate I have given myself for the coming year. It is important to perpetuate our family history. To do this, we need the collaboration of our members. How? Talk about it with your children, your family, the Frigons you know. Why not bring those who are close to you to the next annual meeting? Our family history is beautiful and rich in events and people who have left their mark on it. Let us be proud of it.

The members of the Board of Directors decided to change the format of the evening meal for the 2012 Annual General Meeting in order to interest a maximum number of members, and even attract new ones. The meeting will take place at the Manoir des Chutes Montmorency on August 18, 2012. On the

program: the annual meeting, a guided tour, and a dinner theatre. You will find all the pertinent information in the Spring 2012 Newsletter.

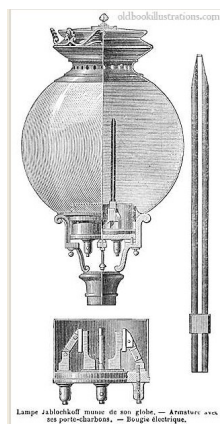
Do you have grandchildren, great-grandchildren? "The Garden of Marie-Claude" is there to welcome them. Send us a photo with the child's name, date of birth, parents' names, and link with the Frigon Family. Did a member of your family achieve something special in their work, in sports or in other activities? Share it with us. We will be happy to publish the good news in the newsletter. Our history does not consist only of the past; it is also the present that is being prepared for the generations to come.

I wish each of you, dear members, a new year filled with love and happiness in the company of those who are dear to you.

MONTREAL'S UTILITY POLES

(Continued from page 49)

"Then, the arrival of electricity radically changed the urban landscape and the way of lighting up all the large cities of the world. Montreal did not escape this technological revolution. J.A.I. Craig, a French-speaking citizen of Montreal who had recently returned from the International Exhibition of Paris in 1878, made an impression with the first demonstration of his electric candle (arc-light). He had perfected this lamp after seeing the Jablochkoff model displayed in Paris. The event took place at the Collège Sainte-Marie, corner of De Bleury and Dorchester (now called René Lévesque Boulevard). He repeated the presentation at the Champ-de-Mars, the evening of May 16, 1879, before hundreds of fascinated spectators who had come to attend the military drills."



Jablochkoff Lamp. On the right is an enlargement of the candle that produces light by the passage of electricity between the tips of the two poles.

Credit. Public property.

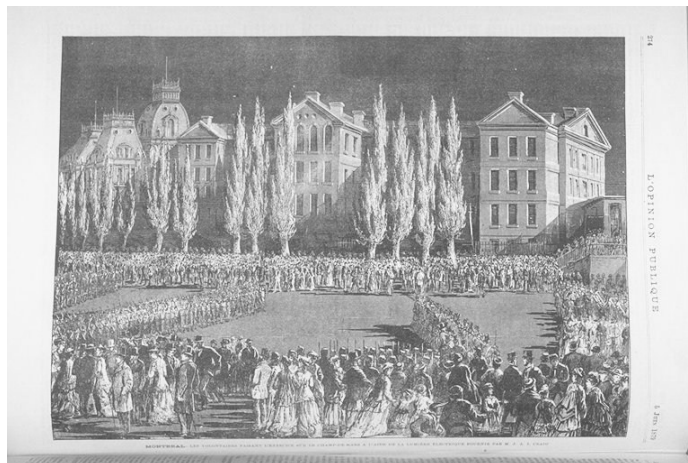


Illustration published by the journal *L'opinion publique* on June 5, 1879, under the heading: "Les volontaires faisant l'exercice sur le Champs-de-Mars à l'aide de la lumière électrique fournie par M.J.A.I. Craig." (Volunteers practising at the Champ-de-Mars with the help of the electric light provided by Mr. J.A.I. Craig".

Credit. BANQ. *L'Opinion publique*, Vol. 10, no 23, p.274 (5 juin 1879).

"Setting up an electrical distribution network in Montreal triggered keen competition between companies. A relentless battle was unleashed for the domination of this promising and lucrative market. In the last twenty years of the 19th century, numerous companies were founded only to fail.

(Continuation on 52)

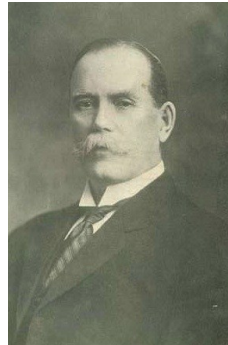
(Continued from page 51)

The *Compagnie Royale d'électricité*, whose charter was granted on June 10, 1884¹, was among the most promising. From its head office in Montreal, it acted under the business name of Royal Electric Co. This company quickly supplanted its rivals and became the sole supplier of electricity for the streets of Montreal, as of 1886.”

“A similar scenario took place between the gas companies. At the end of the 19th century, the Montreal Gas Co. was in the lead by far. Moreover, it bitterly fought for shares of the market with its rival providers of electricity. Finally, in 1901, Rodolphe Forget, president of the Royal Electric Co., and Herbert Samuel Holt, president of the Montreal Gas Co., merged their companies, giving birth to a powerful trust destined to play an important role in the history of the distribution of electricity and gas in Montreal and Quebec (City), namely, the Montreal Light Heat and Power Co. (MLH&P).”



Sir Rodolphe Forget
Credit. VM P0711



Sir Herbert Samuel Holt
Credit. VM P0960

“An attentive observer notices that there are no posts supporting electrical cables in downtown Montreal and on numerous streets of the city. We take this familiar and pleasant urban landscape for granted, oblivious of the battles fought at the beginning of the 20th century to obtain the disappearance of poles and overhead cables on certain Montreal streets. At that time, the private companies had the monopoly of the electrical and telegraphic networks and public transport. They became the masters of the streets of Montreal. The creation of the Electrical Services

Commission of the City of Montreal aimed to restore public landscape control by obliging those companies to bury their cables in underground conduits constructed by the city. These were the issues at stake from the end of the 19th century until today.”



North-east view of Saint Catherine Street, corner of Saint Lawrence Boulevard, March 20, 1914.

Credit. VM98,SY,D2,P027

Beginning in the 1880s, poles and overhead wires invaded the streets and alleys. Whenever the city put pressure on the electrical and telecommunications companies to bury their cables, they fiercely resisted. Powerless before the public service companies such as Bell Telephone Co., the Montreal Street Railway Co.² and the Royal Electric Co., the city tried, from the end of the 19th century, to obtain the necessary legal powers to force the issue. Four amendments voted by the Legislative Assembly, which is now called the National Assembly, modified the Charter of the City of Montreal on this matter and laid the basis for installing the cables underground: the amendments of 1890, 1899, 1907, 1909. The creation of the Electrical Services Commission of the City of Montreal in 1910 was the outcome of this long judicial process. In May 1913, after thirty-three years of procrastination, the first shovelful of dirt was finally moved.”

The next article in this series will take up the matter of the critical state of downtown Montreal at the beginning of the 20th century.

¹47 Vict., chap.55, (1884), *Act incorporating the « Compagnie royale d'électricité »*. The founders were: Walter R. Elmenhorst, Gilbert Scott, Thomas Davidson, Edward S. Clouston, James Crathern, Charles F. Sise, Monroe Lee Ross, George Ross Robertson, Henry E. Irvine and John Cassie Hatton.

²The Montreal Street Railway Co. (1886-1911) became the Montreal Tramways Co. (1911-1951). On August 30, 1959, a procession of old wagons and a ceremony marked the definitive withdrawal of the tramway service in Montreal. On May 23, 1962, Mayor Jean Drapeau inaugurated the beginning of the subway (Métro) project. This was the end of one era and the beginning of a new one.

May 2011

Walter J. Frigon, spouse of **Joanna Rizzo**, died in Brick, New York, USA, on May 21, 2011, at the age of 64.

We do not know Walter's ancestral lineage.

June 2011

Diane Frigon, daughter of **Armande Cossette** and the late **Marcel Frigon**, died in Trois-Rivières, on June 4, 2011, at the age of 50.

Diane came from the line of Louis Augustin, branch of Hubert.

Henry "Hank" Frederick Frigon, spouse of **Anne Marie McCarthy**, died in Scottsdale, Arizona, USA, on June 18, 2011, at the age of 76.

We do not know Henry's ancestral lineage.

Béatrice Cinq-Mars, spouse of **Adélard Frigon**, died in Trois-Rivières, on June 22, 2011, at the age of 93.

Adélard came from the line of Louis Augustin, branch of Sylvestre.

Raymond Ray Frigon, died in Central Square, New York, USA, on June 22, 2011, at the age of 86. (Raymond is thought to have been a native of Syracuse, NY.)

We do not know Raymond's ancestral lineage.

July 2011

Liliette Frigon, spouse of **Martial Marchand**, died in Maskinongé, on July 17, 2011, at the age of 65.

Liliette came from the line of Olivier Pierre, branch of Olivier.

Bonnie Lee Frigon, spouse of **Calvin A. Bigler**, died in Minneapolis, Kansas, USA, on July 27, 2011, at the age of 80.

Bonnie came from the line of Joseph, branch of Olivier.

Daniel Frigon, spouse of **Manon Doré**, died in Ste -Adèle, on July 28, 2011, at the age of 48.

Daniel came from the line of Olivier Pierre, branch of Olivier.

August 2011

Régina Larouche, spouse of the late **Henri Frigon**, died in Dolbeau-Mistassini, on August 1,

2011, at the age of 94 years and 6 months.

Henri came from the line of Pierre Antoine, branch of Souleine.

Jacques Frigon, son of the late **Lionel Frigon** and the late Marie-Paule Dubé, died in Québec City, on August 5, 2011, at the age of 51.

Jacques came from the line of Pierre Antoine, branch of Souleine.

Jeannette Trudel, spouse of the late **George-Henri Frigon**, died in Montreal, on August 16, 2011, at the age of 94.

Georges-Henri came from the line of Pierre Antoine, branch of Antoine.

Gerald "Gerry" Frigon, spouse of **Donna Grover**, died in Cloquet, Minnesota, USA, on August 23, 2011, at the age of 76.

Gerald came from the line of Pierre Antoine, branch of François Xavier.

September 2011

Adrienne Frigon, spouse of the late **Maurice Cossette**, died in Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade, on September 1, 2011, at the age of 99.

Adrienne came from the line of Louis Augustin, branch of Abraham Sylvestre.

William O. Frigon, spouse of **Gail J. Butler**, died in North Attleboro, Rhode Island, USA, on September 4, 2011, at the age of 69.

William came from the line of Pierre Antoine, branch of Antoine.

Jacqueline V. Laliberté, spouse of the late **Robert O. Frigon**, died in Slatersville, Rhode Island, USA, on September 7, 2011, at the age of 72.

Robert came from the line of Olivier Pierre, branch of Olivier.

October 2011

Thérèse Choquet, spouse of the late **Bernard Frigon**, died in Montreal, on October 17, 2011, at the age of 83.

Bernard came from the line of Joseph, branch of Pierre.

Andrée Frigon, spouse of **Robert Lavallée**, died in Montreal, on October 23, 2011, at the age of 88.

Andrée came from the line of Pierre Antoine, branch of Hilaire.

THE CHILDREN OF DÉSIKÉ FREGO

1– François Francis Frigon-Frego

Roger Frigon (131)



2nd Child of Francis – Catherine

This is an addition to the text on Catherine Freego and Joseph Tucker (published in *The Frigons*, Vol.18 #1 Winter 2011). First, a few notes about Joseph Tucker. His family was the only one residing in Massena. He was a farmer and was educated since he could read and write. He was a protestant. His first spouse was registered as Sabra Tucker. Was Sabra her first name or rather her family name? In Brasher, there lived a man named César Sabra who was a blacksmith. There were 8 children inscribed on the 1870 Census and 2 others who were married and resided in the village of Brasher. Joseph Tucker's wife could prove to be the eldest of César Sabra's family. Among the children of Sabra and Joseph, we find Nelson (1865). He had married Elizabeth Sutton and they had at least 5 children: Jessie May (1890), Vernie J. (1892), Sutton (1893), Harold (1897) and Fran Leslie (1897).

GENEALOGICAL SKETCH

François and Marie-Claude Chamois

Jean-François and Gertrude Peros

Paul Joseph and Ursule Lefebvre

Olivier Pierre and Judith Bantiac

Joseph Désiré and Émilie Lupien

Francis and Mary Gadbois

gef(93)

About the relationship between Catherine and Joseph, we remember: William (1875), Della (1876), Harry (1878) and Mary (1879). On the census lists of 1910 and 1920, we found respectively Harry Tucker and Harvey Tucker. Both of them had married the same woman and had the same children. Harry and Harvey were the same person. In fact, Harvey Tucker had espoused Bertha Frego on June 19, 1900 at Massena. Bertha Frego was the daughter of Joseph H. Frego and Adelaide LaRue. We lack the link that would permit us to connect Joseph H. Frego to our database. Bertha and Harvey had at least 3 children: Berman (1903), Irene (1904) and Cyril (1911).

Mary Tucker (1879) was born July 12, 1879, the daughter of Catherine Freego and Joseph Tucker. At her request, she was baptised in the Catholic religion on November 2, 1899; Adie LaRue was the witness. She married Isaac LaRue on November 15, 1899; Bertha Frego served as witness. The couple had 3 children baptised in Massena: Anthony LaRue (1900), Ruby Mary (1902) and Marianne Françoise (1903). We have traced another child of Catherine and Joseph: Sadie Ida Tucker, born in 1884. She married Francis Leo Borrman on October 25, 1919 at Norwood, St-Lawrence, New York. This completes the research on Catherine Freego.

DID YOU KNOW THAT ... ?

Master Corporal Simon R. Frigon, M.M.V¹

Quebec, Quebec

Medal of Military Valour

As a section commander in Afghanistan, Master Corporal Frigon distinguished himself during two separate enemy engagements on May 7 and 20, 2009. In both instances his section was trapped and isolated during an ambush. Yet his unwavering composure and willingness to expose himself to enemy fire inspired his soldiers and instilled them with confidence. With little regard for his personal safety, he was able to precisely define the enemy location, defeat the initial attack and lead his section's fighting withdrawal. Master Corporal Frigon's courageous front line leadership and tactical acumen were critical to repelling the enemy without taking casualties.

Recipient of the Medal of Military Valour²

The Medal of Military Valour recognizes an act of valour or devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy.

(Continuation on 55)

Walking in the Boots of a Soldier¹

The winners of the Soldier for a Day Contest familiarized themselves with the C-7 service rifle before shooting a few rounds. Leading the life of a soldier for a day proved to be a unique experience full of challenges for a group of Albertans who were given the opportunity to do so after winning the *Soldier for a Day Contest*. The day started early for the members of the group who were welcomed to their host unit, the First Service Battalion, where they were teamed up with a soldier partner who was in charge of looking after them for the day. Once all the introductions were done, the civilians made their way to the base clothing stores where they were issued the uniforms that would transform them into soldiers.



Among the participants, Amanda Frigon, of Northlands, Alberta (David Frigon and Ingrid Van Dolder). Amanda comes from the line of Joseph, branch of Joseph (Louiseville).



Amanda Frigon gets briefed before walking up to the firing line.

With weapons in hand, the members of the group made their way via military convoy to the rifle range where they were given a class

on how to operate the C-7 service rifle and the different firing positions. After checking all the safety precautions not once but twice, the “Soldiers for a Day” and their escorts made their way up to the firing line to assist at a demonstration of the C-7 with live ammunition. Though most of these “soldiers” had never touched a weapon before, they all did

fairly well, thanks to the great coaching of their soldier escorts.

They had hardly recovered from the adrenaline rush triggered by this experience when they faced the next stage where the ultimate challenge of the day awaited them: the confidence course. The soldier escorts showed their civilian partners how to successfully overcome each obstacle by working as a team. The confidence course, a very physically demanding exercise, felt very long for most of the “soldiers” and left them gasping for air. This third challenge, which was successfully completed through team work, marked the end of the day and their training. Everyone, without exception, made it through the course, coming away with experiences they will never forget.

2011-12-12/gef

¹ Excerpt from :

http://www.army.gc.ca/lfwa/feature_soldier_day-eng.asp

(Continued from page 54)



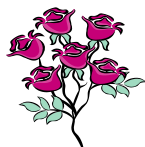
The Medal is a circular gold medal:

- On the obverse side of which is a maple leaf surrounded by a wreath of laurel.
- On the reverse of which appears the Royal Cypher and Crown and the inscription PRO VALORE.
- On the edge of which is engraved the rank and name of the recipient.

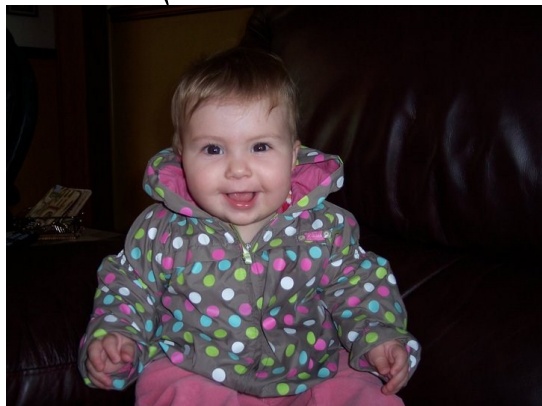
We do not know the lineage of Master Corporal Simon R. Frigon.

¹<http://www.gg.ca/document.aspx?id=14127&lan=eng>

²<http://www.gg.ca/document.aspx?id=73>



 Our Descendants



Rosalie Dargis born February 26, 2010, daughter of Dominique Frigon and Jean-Claude Dargis.

Dominique is the daughter of Gérald Frigon (95) and Sylvie Gravel of Saint-Prosper-de-Champlain, granddaughter of Jean-Baptiste Frigon and Madeleine Cloutier, also of Saint-Prosper.

Rosalie comes from the line of Louis Augustin, branch of Silvestre.

Mila Frigon born June 7, 2009, daughter of Édith Joly and André-Gilles Frigon.

She is linked to the Frigon Families through her paternal grandfather, Gérald Frigon (116).

Mila comes from the line of Louis Augustin, branch of Joseph 2376.



Jade Frigon born September 27, 2011, daughter of Steve Frigon and Angie Smith Garceau.

Jade is linked to the Frigon Families through her paternal grandfather, Gilles Frigon (16).

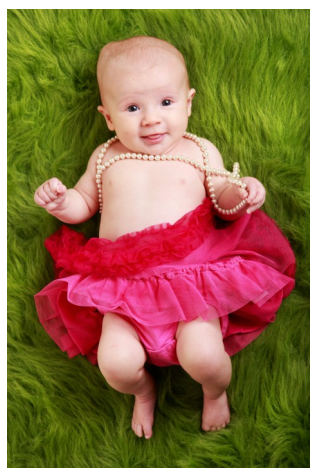
Jade comes from the line of Joseph, branch of Joseph (Sainte-Geneviève).



Williams Parent born September 20, 2010, daughter of Mélanie Frigon and David Parent.

Williams is linked to the Frigon Families through her great-grandfather, Georges E. Frigon (93).

William comes from the line of Louis Augustin, branch of Hubert.



Rosalie Frigon born June 19, 2011, daughter of Hugues Frigon and Vicky Parent.

Rosalie is linked to the Frigon Families through her paternal grandfather, André Frigon (13).

Rosalie comes from the line of Joseph, branch of Joseph (Sainte-Geneviève).

Send us the photos of your grandchildren or your children and savour the pleasure of seeing their refreshing little faces in the newsletter!

Let the members of the Association share the joys of your expanding family.

Keep in touch! It will be a pleasure for me to send you the details. **Sylvie Frigon**



I can be reached by telephone: (418) 651-3948
or by e-mail: sylvie.frigon@videotron.ca



ERROR IN THE NEWSLETTER 2011 AUTOMNE18N3 P. 45 No.22 should read Jean-Guy Boivin , Anjou and No. 36 Bernard Naud, Cap-Rouge.